

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This paper is in response to the non-final Office Action and Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment of March 27, 2006. Applicants thank the Examiner for his careful review of this application. Applicants amend independent claims 8, 15, and 23 and dependent claims 10, 13, 17, and 22. Claims 12 and 21 have been cancelled. Claims 1-7 were previously cancelled as a result of a restriction requirement. The amended claims introduce no new matter and are fully supported by the specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of pending claims 8-11, 13-20, and 22-23 in view of the above amendments and the following remarks submitted in support thereof.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 8-11, 14, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Elledge (U.S. Patent Publication No. US2004/0142635A1). In light of the amendment and arguments contained herein, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Although the Applicants believe that the original pending claims are sufficiently defined over the prior art of record, the Applicants have amended claims 8 and 23 to take allowable subject matter pursuant to the recommendations of the Examiner in the non-final Office Action of December 20, 2005. Specifically, the Examiner indicated in that non-final Office Action that dependent claims 12 and 13 contain allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claims from which they originally depend. In view of that suggestion, the Applicants have amended independent claims 8 and 23 to incorporate features described in canceled claim 12.

As independent claims 8 and 23 have now been amended to place them in condition for allowance, dependent claims 9-11 and 14 can no longer be deemed anticipated because they recite further limitations off of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 8-11, 13, 14, and 23 are in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 15-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Elledge in view of Kassir et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,964,646). In light of the arguments contained herein, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants have amended independent claim 15 to take allowable subject matter pursuant to the recommendations of the Examiner in the non-final Office Action of December 20, 2005. Specifically, the Examiner indicated in that non-final Office Action that dependent claims 21 and 22 contain allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claims from which they originally depend. In view of that suggestion, the Applicants have amended independent claim 15 to incorporate the features described in canceled claim 21.

As independent claim 15 has now been amended to place them in condition for allowance, dependent claims 16-20 can no longer be deemed obvious because they recite further limitations off of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 16-20 and 22 are in condition for allowance.

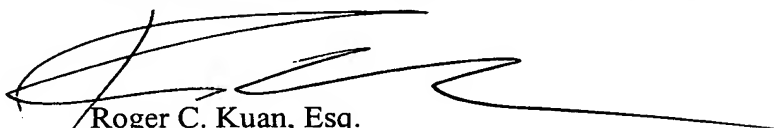


SUMMARY

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present Amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact Roger C. Kuan at (408) 744-6927.

If any additional fees are due in connection with filing this Amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. LAM2P471). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
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